



**Village Manager's Report**  
**Week ending Nov. 13, 2020**

**Meetings scheduled for next week:**

- Monday, Nov. 16:
  - Village Board Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Tuesday, Nov. 17:
  - Citizens Police Oversight Committee, 7 p.m., via GoToMeeting
- Wednesday, Nov. 18:
  - Disability Access Commission, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom
  - Tri-Board Meeting (VOP, D200 & D97) for Early Child Collaboration, 7 p.m., via virtual platform
- Thursday, Nov. 19:
  - Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 p.m., via Zoom
- Friday, Nov. 20:
  - No meetings scheduled

**New Village Hall lobby hours** – Beginning Monday, Nov 16, the Village Hall lobby will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for public services and for limited [appointments](#) on Wednesdays – Fridays. The reduced lobby hours are in recognition of the rapid rise in the number of positive COVID-19 and Oak Park's request to residents to follow the state's latest recommendations to only leave one's home when necessary. The [Village offers services online](#) 24/7/365 and residents are urged to conduct municipal business in this manner as a first choice. It is noted that local candidates will be filing at 8:30 a.m. on both Nov. 16 and Dec. 14 with the Oak Park Village Clerk in the lobby of Village Hall in advance of the new public hours in order to maintain social distancing requirements.

**New business licenses** – The Development Customer Services Department recently issued eight new business licenses, ranging from a retail art gallery to a biometric fingerprint operation. New licenses were issued to restaurant Butter & Brown Bistro, LLC, 420 N. Austin Blvd.; office sharing business Cross Function, LLC, 1033 South Blvd; outpatient psychotherapy Flores Wellness & Consulting, 947 Garfield St.; background fingerprint service Go Printz Biometrics, 1100 Lake St.; retail art gallery Purple Sun Arts, LLC, 142 Harrison St.; home-based online educational consulting Sunila Samuel, LLC, 813 N. Taylor Ave.; medical office Thrive Life Wellness Center, 1515 N. Harlem Ave; and Valdo's Barbershop, 128 Harrison St.

**Census closeout** – Village staff joined Governor J.B. Pritzker and more than 100 state, municipal and county representatives in the state's *Census Convening*, a

virtual gathering to provide a close-out report on Illinois' 2020 Census efforts. Census tabulation efforts in Oak Park and Illinois resulted in a 71.4 percent self-response rate. Illinois had the highest Census self-response rate of the 10 most populous states, surpassing California, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania. In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, indications are that the Census Bureau's non-response follow-up work increased Illinois' overall participation rate to 99.6 percent. By law, the Census Bureau must provide final results to the President by the end of the year.

**Unemployment benefit fraud alert** – Oak Park Police report that dozens of residents have reported being the victim of fraudulent unemployment insurance claims made in their name with the [Illinois Department of Employment Security \(IDES\)](#). Police are warning anyone who has received a debit card or an unemployment insurance finding letter and did not file for benefits, or if their employer notifies them that an unnecessary claim has been filed, to contact IDES promptly to report it. Reports can [filed either online](#) or by calling 800.814.0513. Ways to safeguard one's identity are offered in a [tip sheet posted on the Village website](#).

**Lake Street update** – With the intersection of Lake and Euclid avenues closed, crews made short work of removing the old pavement, installing the remaining utilities and placing the new pavement sub-grade. New curb and the pavement binder course were expected to be installed by this week as well, with bluestone sidewalk installation to continue between Oak Park and Euclid avenues through next week. Preparations also are underway to place the final surface pavement from Forest Avenue to Euclid by the end of next week. Finishing touches including the pavement striping, landscaping and street furniture should wrap up by Thanksgiving. ComEd's reconstruction of an underground equipment vault near 1018 Lake St. has blocked pedestrian traffic on this short section of Lake Street, but concrete for the vault's new walls and roof are expected to be poured week and all work completed by Nov. 22. Lake Street project updates are posted regularly at [www.betterlakestreet.com](http://www.betterlakestreet.com) and questions are accepted via email to [info@betterlakestreet.com](mailto:info@betterlakestreet.com).

**Diabetes prevention month** – The Oak Park Health Department is promoting healthy living choices this month as part of [American Diabetes Month](#). Diabetes is one of the leading causes of disability and death in the United States, public health officials say. The [CDC also includes diabetes as an underlying health condition](#) that could put someone at an increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19. [Click here to read more...](#)

**Miscellaneous construction updates** – Resurfacing-related activities are now underway on Greenfield Street from Linden Avenue to Columbian Avenue; Superior Street from Harvey Avenue to Lombard Avenue; and Austin Boulevard from Lake Street to Chicago Avenue. The corners at various intersections also will be brought into compliance with the American's with Disabilities Act. Crews began pulling cable through the new fiber optic ring conduit system this week. They are working clockwise around the ring and should start splicing the cables the week of Thanksgiving as this critical major technology infrastructure upgrade nears completion.

**Employee news** – Deputy Chief Scott Bartelt retired this week after 27 years of service with the Oak Park Fire Department. Since becoming deputy chief in 2016, he had managed the Fire Prevention Bureau while serving as the Village’s Fire Marshal, which included reviewing construction plans to ensure buildings meet fire code regulations. Fire Chief Tom Ebsen is assessing options for filling the important role. [Click here to view a photo gallery](#) of Scott’s long career as well as other municipal employee activity and events.

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